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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

Brian R Naranjo 12/26/2001 03:03:39 PM From DB/inbox: Brian R Naranjo

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

December 26, 2001

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE  
Action: INR  
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 3728 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Subject: CHAVEZ ORDERS MVR TO BREAK OFF DIALOGUE  
Ref: CARACAS 3712

1. (U) SUMMARY: After pledging to take "not one step backwards," on December 19 President Chavez ordered the Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) deputies of the National Assembly to abandon the dialogue table--officially known as the Special Commission on Understanding--tasked with reviewing the infamous 49 laws passed in November under the Enabling Law. Alejandro Armas (MVR) [redacted] and five other MVR deputies did attend the session in defiance of the President's orders. [redacted]

END SUMMARY.

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CHAVEZ LAYS DOWN THE LAW  
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2. (U) True to his pledge to take "not one step backwards," on December 19 President Chavez ordered the Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) deputies of the National Assembly to abandon the dialogue table--officially known as the Special Commission on Understanding--tasked with reviewing the infamous 49 laws passed in November under the Enabling Law. Vice President Adina Bastidas, who oversaw the passage of the laws, refused a summons to attend the meeting, and several MVR deputies who are commission members also failed to appear. Their absence seemed to be a crippling blow to the table, whose legitimacy for dialogue depends upon MVR participation. [redacted] the commission looked "effectively dead."

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ARMAS DOESN'T STEP BACKWARDS EITHER  
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3. (U) But it's not dead yet. Alejandro Armas (MVR) [redacted] and five other MVR deputies did attend the session in apparent defiance of the President's orders. Armas, who has been under heavy fire from the [redacted] wing of the MVR, insisted publicly that he will maintain both his position as president of the commission and his membership in the MVR. [redacted]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, ARPS  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 25 DEC 2011  
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2006 200304421

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WHAT IS CHAVEZ UP TO?  
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4. (U) Last week the National Assembly arrived at the decision to establish a single special commission to discuss problems in the Enabling Law package without a single dissenting MVR voice. Chavez could have killed the idea with the MVR before it happened, but he allowed the deputies to proceed. Now, after the commission is up and running, he is demanding the MVR back out of it, an order sure to humiliate the pro-dialogue moderates.

Hrinak

Additional Addressees:

None

cc:

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USINT HAVANA

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ACTION INR-00

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	EB-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	LAB-01	VCB-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W				

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4389  
INFO CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
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NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO  
USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
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End Cable Text

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